

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Original)** A method for separating and recovering a catalytic component-supporting wash coat from a metallic carrier catalytic device, which method is characterized in that a metallic carrier catalytic device which is composed of a metallic carrier having a wash coat provided thereon and a noble metal-containing catalytic component which is supported on the wash coat is treated with an aqueous solution of mixed acid which contains sulfuric acid and nitric acid.
- 2. (Original)** A method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution of mixed acid contains sulfuric acid at a concentration in the range of 5 to 50 % by weight and nitric acid at a concentration in the range of 0.1 to 5 % by weight.
- 3. (Original)** A method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution of mixed acid contains sulfuric acid at a concentration in the range of 10 to 30 % by weight and nitric acid at a concentration in the range of 1 to 3 % by weight.
- 4. (Original)** A method of claim 1 wherein the treatment with aqueous solution of mixed acid is conducted at a temperature in the range of from room temperature to about 150°C.
- 5. (Original)** A method for recovery of claim 1 wherein the treatment with aqueous solution of mixed acid is conducted at a temperature in the range of from about 60°C to about 100°C.
- 6. (Currently Amended)** A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 1, and from ~~recovered~~the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.

**7. (Currently Amended)** A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 2, and from ~~recovered~~the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.

**8. (Currently Amended)** A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 3, and from ~~recovered~~the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.

**9. (Currently Amended)** A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 4, and from ~~recovered~~the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.

**10. (Currently Amended)** A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 5, and from ~~recovered~~the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.